

REMARKS

In the above-noted Official Action, the Examiner objected to the Figures and required a new corrected drawing to simplify the connections shown in Fig. 1. Claims 1, 9 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over MORRISEY et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,524,146) in view of BRESLIN (ex parte letter and comments from Bell Atlantic submitted to the Federal Communications Commission on August 2, 1999) and further in view of DOWENS (U.S. Patent No. 5,559,857). Claims 3-4 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over MORRISEY in view of BRESLIN and DOWENS, and further in view of PELTZ-STRAUSS (ex parte letter and comments from the National Association of the Deaf submitted to the Federal Communications Commission on August 2, 1999). Claims 2 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over MORRISEY in view of BRESLIN and DOWENS, and further in view of KEATING et al.(comments from the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International and the National Emergency Number Association submitted to the Federal Communications Commission September 14, 1998).

Attached to the present Response, Applicants have submitted a new Figure 1 that details the features described in the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the new Figure 1 omits some of the unnumbered connections and thereby contains fewer of the connections which the Examiner described as "cumbersome" in the previous version

of Figure 1. Applicants additionally note that the LIDB in Figure 1 has been relabeled as element 245 to avoid being confused with the TRS Provider Customer Assistant 290.

Additionally, by the present Response, Applicants have amended the specification at page 9 to correspond to the minor changes to the labels in Figure 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Figure 1.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Official Action. Initially, before the features described in the references are discussed, Applicants submit that several of the applied references have not been shown to be prior art under any provision of 35 U.S.C. §102. In this regard, the dates shown on each of KEATING, BRESLIN and PELTZ-STRAUSS, and noted on the PTO-892 Form provided by the Examiner, are the dates that appear on the documents as provided by the authors and/or the dates that the Federal Communications Commission acknowledged receipt of the documents. However, the date that a document is submitted to a government agency is not necessarily the date that a document is published or otherwise available as prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide any evidence she possesses of the availability of KEATING, BRESLIN and PELTZ-STRAUSS as prior art with respect to the present application. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the dates that appear on the above-noted references, i.e., the dates the above-noted references were written and/or received by the Federal Communications Commission, do

not qualify the references as prior art under any provision of 35 U.S.C. §102.

Accordingly, if there is no further evidence of the date that the above-noted references were available under 35 U.S.C. §102, Applicants respectfully assert that the above-noted references have not been shown to qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Furthermore, even if the above-noted references are shown to qualify as prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of the present claims are improper. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that, alone or in combination, the teachings of the references applied in the outstanding Official Action do not disclose or suggest the invention recited in claims 1-14.

Upon entry of the present response, claims 1 and 14 will have been amended. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to clarify terms recited therein. Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to passively recite the receipt of the identifier because the feature of "providing the... identifier" is already recited positively. Additionally, as noted below, claim 14 has been amended to recite "wherein the data comprising at least one of a charge number and an automatic number identification is forwarded to the telecommunications relay service center". In view of the herein-contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections set forth in the Official Action.

As is noted in the Official Action, MORRISEY discloses inputting a N11 number into a communications device and having the number translated into an appropriate toll-free number at a service control point. The N11 numbers in MORRISEY correspond to an information service call to a generic predetermined destination (511) or an information service call to a predetermined destination preprogrammed by the caller (211). See column 19, line 54 to column 20, line 18. However, as is noted in the Official Action, MORRISEY is not directed to “routing and connecting the originating call to a telecommunications relay service center”. Moreover, MORRISEY does not disclose or suggest “providing to and receiving at said telecommunications relay service (TRS) center the identifier corresponding to the communications device”, as is admitted in the Official Action.

Additionally, as is noted in the outstanding Official Action, BRESLIN describes using an advanced intelligent network (AIN) to enable “the 800 number for each state to be programmed into an ISCP based on the Numbering Plan Area (NPA) of the calling party”. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that BRESLIN describes applying the functionality described in MORRISEY to routing calls to a telecommunications relay service center. However, similar to MORRISEY, BRESLIN does not disclose or suggest “providing to and receiving at said telecommunications relay service (TRS) center the identifier corresponding to the communications device” (i.e., the language used in the

outstanding Official Action with respect to MORRISEY); nor does the outstanding Official Action assert that such a feature, or the related feature recited in claim 1, is disclosed in BRESLIN. In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that BRESLIN merely suggests using an advanced intelligent network to route calls using a toll free number corresponding to a telecommunications relay service, rather than the information service providers as disclosed in MORRISEY. However, BRESLIN does not disclose or suggest providing the identification (identifier) of the calling party's device to the telecommunications relay service.

Moreover, the portions of DOWENS cited in the outstanding Official Action do not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claim 1. Rather, the full quote from DOWENS provided in the Official Action only describes an operator re-dialing the dialed number received from the adjunct 50, and the adjunct 50 requesting a communications path (voice and out-of-band) between the called party and the adjunct. However, similar to MORRISEY and BRESLIN, DOWENS does not disclose or suggest "providing to and receiving at said telecommunications relay service (TRS) center the identifier corresponding to the communications device" (i.e., the language used in the outstanding Official Action with respect to MORRISEY); nor does the outstanding Official Action assert that such a feature, or the related feature recited in claim 1, is disclosed in DOWENS. In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that DOWENS merely

describes the routing of a call through a telecommunications relay service operator.

However, DOWENS does not disclose or suggest providing the identification (identifier) of the calling party's device to the telecommunications relay service.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references applied in the outstanding Official Action discloses "providing the at least one identifier to the telecommunications relay service center" or "receiving the at least one identifier enabling the telecommunications relay service center to identify the first communications device", each of which is recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the portions of the applied references quoted or otherwise cited in the Official Action discloses the above-noted features recited in claim 1. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Official Action does not otherwise assert with specificity where such features are believed to be disclosed or suggested in the referenced applied in the Official Action. Therefore, if the Examiner persists in her assertion that the above-noted features of claim 1 are disclosed or suggested in any of the references, Applicants respectfully request an indication, with specificity, where such features are believed to be taught. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

// Claim 9 recites "wherein the at least one service switching point connects the dialing communications device to the telecommunications relay service using the toll free

telephone number, the at least one service switching point also forwarding the identifier to the telecommunications relay service center". For reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to the allowability of claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the portions of the applied references quoted or otherwise cited in the Official Action discloses the above-noted features recited in claim 9. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Official Action does not otherwise assert with specificity where such features are believed to be disclosed or suggested in the references applied in the Official Action. Therefore, if the Examiner persists in her assertion that the above-noted features of claim 9 are disclosed or suggested in any of the references, Applicants respectfully request an indication, with specificity, where such features are believed to be taught. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). /

Claim 14 has been amended to recite "wherein the data comprising at least one of a charge number and an automatic number identification is forwarded to the telecommunications relay service center". For reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to the allowability of claims 1 and 9, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the portions of the applied references quoted or otherwise cited in the Official Action discloses the above-noted features recited in amended claim 14. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Official Action does not otherwise

assert with specificity where such features are believed to be disclosed or suggested in the referenced applied in the Official Action. Therefore, if the Examiner persists in her assertion that the above-noted features of claim 14 are disclosed or suggested in any of the references, Applicants respectfully request an indication, with specificity, where such features are believed to be taught. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as well as an indication of their allowability, at least for the reasons set forth above. Applicants additionally submit that claims 2-8 and 10-13 are allowable at least for depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for reasons related to their own recitations.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-8 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as well as an indication of their allowability, at least for the reasons set forth above.

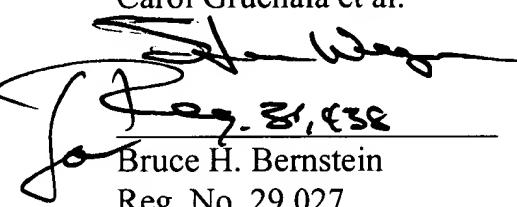
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance, and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Furthermore, Applicants have discussed the features recited in Applicants' claims and have shown how these features are not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the references cited in the Official Action.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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